

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 10, 11, 14, 17, 26, 29 and 35-37 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium, comprising:
 - a sending unit adapted to send, to an external apparatus, acquisition information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium so as to cause the external apparatus to acquire the data in accordance with the sent acquisition information and generate data for output based on the acquired data and the sent layout information; and
 - an acquisition unit adapted to acquire the data for output generated by the external apparatus; and
 - an output unit adapted to output the image on the recording medium based on the data for output acquired by said acquisition unit.
2. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the acquisition information for acquiring the data is information for identifying the data.
3. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the information for identifying the data is represented by URI.

4. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reception unit adapted to receive a print instruction including the acquisition information indicating the position of storage of data and the layout information,

wherein said sending unit sends to the external apparatus the acquisition information and the layout information included in the print instruction received by said reception unit.

5. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition unit acquires the data for output through a network.

6. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the layout information includes information indicating the sheet size or the layout direction.

7. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the layout information is information designating a page and said acquisition unit acquires the data for output corresponding to the designated page.

8. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the structured description language is XML or HTML.

9. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a printing apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming system comprised of an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium and an external apparatus for executing a conversion process of data described with a structured description language, the system comprising:

a sending unit, provided in said image forming apparatus, adapted to send, to said external apparatus, acquisition information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium;

an acquisition unit, provided in said external apparatus, adapted to acquire the data based on the acquisition information sent by said sending unit;

a conversion unit, provided in said external apparatus, adapted to convert the data acquired by said acquisition unit based on the layout information sent by said sending unit;

a transfer unit, provided in said external apparatus, adapted to transfer the data converted by said conversion unit from said external apparatus to said image forming apparatus; and

an output unit, provided in said image forming apparatus, adapted to output an image on the recording medium by analyzing the data transferred by said transfer unit.

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium, comprising:
 - a reception unit adapted to receive layout information required for assigning an image based on data to the recording medium;
 - a changing unit adapted to change a portion of the layout information received by said reception unit in accordance with a function or status state of said image forming apparatus, wherein the portion of the received layout information does not correspond to the function or state of said image forming apparatus and another portion of the received layout information corresponds to the function or state of said image forming apparatus;
 - a sending unit adapted to send, to an external apparatus, the layout information changed by said changing unit so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output based on the sent layout information; and
 - an acquisition unit adapted to acquire the data for output generated by the external apparatus; and
 - an output unit adapted to output the image on the recording medium based on the data for output acquired by said acquisition unit.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the layout information is information indicating the sheet size.

14. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium, comprising:
a reception unit adapted to receive a print instruction;
a determination unit adapted to determine layout information required for assigning an image based on data to the recording medium in accordance with a function or ~~status state~~ of said image forming apparatus, if said reception unit receives the received print instruction ~~does not include~~ without any layout information for the data;

a sending unit adapted to send, to an external apparatus, the layout information determined by said determination unit so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output based on the sent layout information; ~~and~~

~~an acquisition unit adapted to acquire the data for output generated by the external apparatus; and~~

an output unit adapted to output the image on the recording medium based on the data for output acquired by said acquisition unit.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the layout information is information indicating the sheet size.

17. (Currently Amended) An image forming method for outputting an image on a recording medium, comprising steps of:

sending, to an external apparatus, acquisition information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium so as to cause the external apparatus to acquire the data in accordance with the sent acquisition information and generate data for output based on the acquired data and the sent layout information; and

acquiring data for output generated by the external apparatus; and
outputting the image on the recording medium based on the data for output
acquired in said acquiring step.

18. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the acquisition information for acquiring the data is information for identifying the data.

19. (Original) An image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the information for identifying the data is represented by URI.

20. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 17, further comprising steps of:

receiving a print instruction including the acquisition information indicating the position of storage of data and the layout information; and
sending to the external apparatus the acquisition information and the layout information included in the print instruction received in said receiving step.

21. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the data for output are acquired through a network.

22. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the layout information includes information indicating the sheet size or the layout direction.

23. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the layout information is information designating a page and there are acquired the data for output corresponding to the designated page.

24. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 41, wherein the structured description language is XML or HTML.

25. (Original) An image forming method according to claim 17,
wherein said method is realized in a printing apparatus.

26. (Currently Amended) An image forming method in an image
forming apparatus for outputting an image on a recording medium, comprising steps of:
receiving layout information required for assigning an image based on data
to the recording medium;
changing a portion of the received layout information in accordance with a
function or ~~status~~ state of the image forming apparatus, wherein the portion of the received
layout information does not correspond to the function or state of the image forming
apparatus and another portion of the received layout information corresponds to the
function or state of the image forming apparatus;

sending, to an external apparatus, the changed layout information so as to
cause the external apparatus to generate data for output based on the sent layout
information; and

acquiring the data for output generated by the external apparatus; and
outputting the image on the recording medium based on the data for output
acquired in said acquiring step.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 26, wherein the layout information is information indicating the sheet size.

29. (Currently Amended) An image forming method in an image forming apparatus for outputting an image on a recording medium, comprising steps of:
receiving a print instruction;
determining layout information required for assigning an image based on data to the recording medium in accordance with a function or status state of the image forming apparatus, if the received print instruction does not include is received without any layout information for the data;
sending, to an external apparatus, the determined layout information so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output based on the sent layout information; and
acquiring the data for output generated by the external apparatus; and
outputting the image on the recording medium based on the data for output
acquired in said acquiring step.

Claim 30 (Canceled).

31. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 29, wherein the layout information is information indicating the sheet size.

Claims 32-34 (Canceled).

35. (Currently Amended) A program to be executed by an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium, the program comprising:

sending, to an external apparatus, acquisition information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium so as to cause the external apparatus to acquire the data in accordance with the sent acquisition information and generate data for output based on the acquired data and the sent layout information; and

an acquisition step of acquiring data for output generated by the external apparatus; and

outputting the image on the recording medium based on the acquired data for output.

36. (Currently Amended) A program to be executed by an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium, the program comprising:

a reception step of receiving layout information required for assigning an image based on data to the recording medium;

a changing step of changing a portion of the received layout information received by said reception step in accordance with a function or status state of the image forming apparatus, wherein the portion of the received layout information does not correspond to the function or state of the image forming apparatus and another portion of the received layout information corresponds to the function or state of the image forming apparatus;

a sending step of sending, to an external apparatus, the layout information changed by said changing step so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output based on the sent layout information; and

an acquisition step of acquiring data for output generated by the external apparatus; and

an output step of outputting the image on the recording medium based on the data for output acquired in said acquisition step.

37. (Currently Amended) A program to be executed by an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium, the program comprising:

a reception step of receiving a print instruction;

a determination step of determining layout information required for assigning an image based on data to the recording medium in accordance with a function or status state of the image forming apparatus, if the received print instruction does not include is received without any layout information for the data;

a sending step of sending, to an external apparatus, the layout information determined by said determination step so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output based on the sent layout information; and

an acquisition step of acquiring the data for output generated by the external apparatus; and

an output step of outputting the image on the recording medium based on the data for output acquired in said acquisition step.

38. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the data acquired in accordance with the acquisition information is described with a structured description language.

39. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the external apparatus generates the data for output based on data described with a structured description language and the sent layout information.

40. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 14, wherein the external apparatus generates the data for output based on data
described with a structured description language and the sent layout information.

41. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to
Claim 17, wherein the data acquired in accordance with the acquisition information is
described with a structured description language.

42. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to
Claim 26, wherein the external apparatus generates the data for output based on data
described with a structured description language and the sent layout information.

43. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to
Claim 29, wherein the external apparatus generates the data for output based on data
described with a structured description language and the sent layout information.